Secrets. Pt.-27—100,000—31-5-49.

Food & Agriculture (1949) Department.

11c SERIES.

G.O. No. (11)
644

Dated 26-7-49.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - ~~Fifth~~ Independence Day Celebrations - Inauguration of National Planting Week on 15.8.1949 - Instructions issued.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Abstract.

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Independence Day Celebrations - Inauguration of National Planting Week on the 15th August 1949 - Instructions issued.

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FOOD DEPARTMENT.

G.O. Ms. No. 644. Dated the 26th July 1949.

Read:-

G.O. Ms. No. 4123, Development, dated 6.8.1948.
From the Government of India, letter No. Forests/49/General dated 15.7.1949.

Order:-

A copy of the letter No. Forests/49/General dated 15.7.1949 from the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, together with a copy of the Appeal issued by the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture, last year is communicated to the Commissioner of Food Production, the Director of Agriculture, Chief Conservator of Forests, Director of Public Instruction, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Commissioner, Corporation of Madras and other Heads of Departments, Collectors of Districts and the Firka Development Officers. They are requested to give wide publicity to the appeal.

2. The Commissioner of Food Production, Director of Agriculture, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Collectors of Districts and the Firka Development Officers are requested to organise the National Planting Week and to take immediate steps for the inauguration of the Week commencing from 15th August 1949 with a view to impress upon the villagers the immense possibilities of the plantation of the quick growing trees suited to local conditions and to make the villagers realise the benefits accuring therefrom. They are also requested to seek the full cooperation of the public and arrange that compounds of public buildings, private houses, schools, camping grounds, village commons, etc., are planted with the quick growing fuel trees in accordance with the regular plans drawn up for the purpose. They should inaugurate the Tree Planting Week on the Independence Day along with other celebrations and should take steps to ensure that the whole week is devoted by the public to the raising of trees. The Director of Agriculture and the Chief Conservator of Forests should arrange beforehand for the supply of seeds and seedlings for sowing or planting during that week. They should publish the quantity of seeds and seedlings and the places at which they would be available beforehand for the information of the public so that they may get them for sowing or planting during the week. The Director of Agriculture and the Chief Conservator of Forests are requested to take energetic steps to supply to the public seeds and seedlings of fuel trees from their nursaries.

3. The Collectors should see that the planting week is properly organised with the assistance of the District Agricultural Officers, District Forest Officers, and District Educational Officers and other District Officers and it is made a success. They are requested to submit a brief report of the programme gone through as soon as the week is ended.

4. Arrangements will also be made through the Director of Information and Publicity for broadcasting of the appeal through the radio and newspapers throughout the Province.

5. The Director of Agriculture, the Chief Conservator of

Forests, and the Collectors are requested to see that the local Agricultural Associations and non-officials also participate in the week.

6. The Commissioner of Food Production is requested to issue any supplementary instructions that may be necessary and communicate a copy to Government.

7. The attention of the Board of Revenue is in this connection invited to correspondence ending with Endorsement No. 101558/AIII/48-6 dated 29.3.1949 to which the Board has not yet sent a reply.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor).

M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secretary to Government.

To

All Departments of Secretariat.
The Commissioner of Food Production.
The Director of Agriculture.
The Chief Conservator of Forests.
The Director of Public Instruction.
The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, through Mayor.
All Other Heads of Departments.
All Collectors.
All Firka Development Officers.
The Provincial Firka Development Officer, Madras, (North - Chillakalapudi).
The Provincial Firka Development Officer, Madras (South), Madras.
The Senior Translator to Government.
The Grow More Food Committee (Board of Revenue).
The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) and (Civil Supplies).
The Chief Engineer (Irrigation).
The Secretary, Madras Chamber of Agriculture.
Copy to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.
Copy to Regional Food Commissioner, Madras.
Copy to the Director of Information and Publicity, Madras.

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Copy of letter No. Forests/49/General dated 15th July 1949 from the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

Sub:- Observance of a Tree Planting Week in commemoration of the Day of Freedom.

I am directed to invite reference to the appeal issued last year on the above subject by the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India urging the public to undertake the planting of quick growing trees all over the country - particularly with a view to avoid the waste of farmyard gatherings and other sources of organic manure which for want of adequate wood-fuel are being used as fuel. The Government of India wish to bring to the notice of the Provincial Governments once again the urgent need of including tree planting in the programme of celebrations of the Day of Freedom, viz. 15th August and to suggest that the Provincial Governments may take steps to ensure that a whole week is devoted by the public to the raising of trees, the importance of which in the rural economy can scarcely be overemphasised. In view of the harmful effects on crop returns of the evil practice prevalent in the villages of burning farmyard manure as fuel it is necessary that a concerted driv

for the afforestation of waste lands unfit for cultivation with quick growing trees should be undertaken by the Provincial Governments with a view to divert farmyard manure from village hearths to village fields for increasing the yield of the soil. I am to request therefore that the Provincial Governments will take immediate steps for the inauguration of a National Planting Week commencing from the 15th August 1949 with a view to impress upon the villagers the immense possibilities of the plantation of quick-growing trees suited to local conditions and to make the villagers to lay stress on the subsequent care and nursing of the trees planted in pursuance of this programme and their protection against cattle, sheep and goat for a reasonable period of time. It may added that the tender care expended on the nursing of young plants makes villagers tree-minded inculcates in them a love for trees which constitutes the best security against their subsequent Wantong destinction.

2. I am also to request that the Provincial Governments should seek the full cooperation of the public and arrange that compounds of public buildings, private houses, schools, comping grounds, village commons, etc., are planted with quick-growing fuel trees in accordance with regular plans drawn up for the purpose. In urban areas trees noted for their aesthetic value such as colourful foliages and flowers may well break the monotony of ful species.

The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.

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Copy of appeal issued by the Hon'ble Sri. Jairamdas Daultram, Minister for Food and Agriculture. Government of India.

Celebration of August 15th programme for the villages towards greater food production.

August 15th is drawing nigh. It will be the first anniversary of our attainment of political freedom. For the masses of India, the year which has passed since this political freedom was achieved has witnessed hardly any change in their condition. They had built high hopes when freedom was won, but its glow has not yet reached them. It will serve little purpose to comment on the causes which have been responsible for this. We must make a fresh effort to make the people in the distant villages feel that the country's new status is leading to a definite change in their economic and social condition.

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Big developmental schemes are in preparation or execution which will water fresh lands and spread electric power in new areas. These will have their economic consequences on the life of the people round about them. The fruits of these schemes will, however, take some time to ripen and their ~~been~~ benefit will be local. Other schemes will, affect the life of the people are also going through the process of preparation and implementation. But they are all bits of a big whole; each will mature in its own time and place. Their execution depends upon factors which operate very slowly.

One would wish the masses in the villages to do something themselves which would make for change in their economic condition. By their own effort they may celebrate the Freedom Day - the 15th of August - in a form which improves their present lot. The Government will celberate the 15th of August in its own way. So will the Urban population. It is open to the village folk themselves to organise a big programme of action. I would not indicate all the items they could include. Being in some way responsible for advisory function in regard to agriculture, I can speak to the agricultural masses only about items for the celebration of the freedom day which are linked with agriculture.

I wish it were possible to organise all the agricultural producers of the country in a vast drive for launching on a programme of production which is both within their means and also rich in immediate results. The seasonal factor probably comes in the way of many items of work being taken up uniformly all over the country in the middle of August. But one item has been suggested to me which it appears is well-timed for the middle of August and is of a nature which permits its being implemented in every village in the country. I wish to put it before all who have influence over the agricultural population in the rural areas. Experts have told us how in India the agriculturists waste ~~this~~ vast quantities of organic manure the use of which can produce enough food to cover entire national food deficit and leave a surplus for all. This traditional habit of wasting the farmyard gatherings and other sources of organic manure is forced on the people because they have no other sources for the fuel they need in their daily life. A solution of this difficulty has been found in what are called quick growing trees. While lending a pleasant appearance to village surroundings, the fieldbunds, the roadsides and the railway line, these trees will supply to the neighbouring village population a handy substitute for fuel purposes, in place of the fertilising cowdung and other farm manure which our soil is hungering for. We will have done double service to the country by following such a programme. It can become a factory for more production. The individual who thus saves organic manure for his field is a gainer because he reaps a richer harvest and so is the country because of the total increase in food crop.

I would therefore appeal to all who are in authority in the Provinces and States to take immediate steps to organise a systematic programme of planting quick growing trees suited to local conditions during the week beginning with the 15th August. It is a simple programme. It has no relation to town life. It would make little appeal to the urban mind. But it fits in with rural conditions. It touches the life of villagers. It affects the yield from their farm. It affects therefore national production. But the task is a huge one, covering as it does lakhs of our villages, and can only be successfully accomplished by the active cooperation - nay, by the initiative of the villagers themselves. Village officials, village schoolmasters and village students can play a special role in this matter by arranging local programmes and giving a lead to the local people in the campaign of planting quick growing trees, saving organic manure to enrich our fields and thereby helping the country in its plans for greater food production.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

29/9

k.y.s. 28.9.